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LETTER DATED 12 MAY 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea on 12 May 1999 on the occasion of a visit to Asmara on 11 May 1999 of a delegation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to discuss the resolution of the border conflict between my country and Ethiopia.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tesfa Alem SEYOUM
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Press release issued on 12 May 1999 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea

Eritrea calls for implementation of the Organization of African Unity Framework Agreement

An Organization of African Unity (OAU) delegation led by the Foreign Minister of Burkina Faso, the special envoy of President Blaise Compaore, visited Asmara on Tuesday, 11 May 1999, and held talks with President Isaias Afwerki. The delegation also met with Foreign Minister Haile Woldetensae leading the Eritrean committee on the border conflict.

The special envoy delivered a message from President Compaore to President Afwerki.

The Government of Eritrea reiterated to the delegation its adherence to the Framework Agreement as endorsed by the Summit of the OAU Central Organ and its readiness to implement its provisions fully. In this context, and with a view to expediting the implementation of the process, the Government of Eritrea called for the following practical measures:

(a) That a formal and binding agreement be signed between the Government of Eritrea and the Government of Ethiopia confirming the acceptance of the OAU Framework Agreement by both parties;

(b) That formal agreements concerning the "mechanisms" and "technicalities" of implementation of the Framework Agreement be signed by both parties and that these be declared;

(c) That a formal agreement on a ceasefire be signed and declared so as to create a conducive climate for the implementation of the Framework Agreement.

The Government of Eritrea further informed the OAU delegation that when these three points were agreed and signed, Eritrea would exhibit, in the process of implementation of the Framework Agreement, necessary flexibility and cooperation without compromising its claims over its sovereign territory.

The Government of Eritrea urged the OAU delegation to ensure that Ethiopia's illegal expulsion of Eritrea's Ambassador to OAU would be rectified and the Ambassador enabled to return to OAU headquarters to resume vital communication with the OAU secretariat.